SBA Selects Kelly Mendell of Middletown as the 2018 Rhode Island Small Business Person of the Year

Providence, R.I. – The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced that Kelly Mendell, President of MIKEL, has been selected as this year's Rhode Island Small Business Person of the Year. MIKEL is a woman-owned, leading undersea warfare technology company in Middletown, RI. Mendell joined MIKEL in 2002 before assuming the role of President in 2008, in her spare time she holds a leadership role on the executive board for SENEDIA, which promotes the defense business in Southeast New England, STEM in schools, and increases the visibility and education for those in the defense sector.

"I would like to congratulate Kelly Mendell on her selection as Rhode Island Small Business Person of the Year," said Mark S. Hayward, Rhode Island District Director. "Kelly is a shining example of the entrepreneurship here in the Ocean State and her selection is testament to the exceptional small business community we have here," he added.

This award is open to any individual who owns or operates a small business for profit, has been in operation for a minimum of three years, and who has received SBA assistance.

Mendell will represent Rhode Island as the SBA selects their National Small Business Person of the Year during the small business week celebrations in Washington, DC. All 50 states will be represented by their respective winners who were selected on the basis of defining the nation's strong entrepreneurial spirit and rich diversity.

The Rhode Island Small Business Awards will be held at Kirkbrae Country Club, 197 Old River Road, Lincoln, RI 02865 on May 11, and will honor all of the Rhode Island awardees and their exceptional small

business accomplishments.

For more information about the awards luncheon please contact Ryan Brissette at ryan.brissette@sba.gov or call 401-528-4630.

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